

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-56 (canceled).

57. (Original) A modified atmosphere package, comprising:

a first package comprising a non-barrier portion substantially permeable to oxygen, the first package being configured and sized to fully enclose a retail cut of raw meat; and

a second package being substantially impermeable to oxygen, the second package adapted to cover the first package so as to create a pocket between the first and second packages, the pocket having a mixture of gases comprising from about 0.1 to about 0.8 vol.% carbon monoxide and at least one other gas to form a low oxygen environment so as to form carboxymyoglobin on a surface of the raw meat.

58. (Original) The package of claim 57 further including an oxygen scavenger.

59. (Original) The package of claim 57 further including an activated oxygen scavenger.

60. (Original) The package of claim 57, wherein the first package is shaped differently than the second package.

61. (Original) The package of claim 57, wherein the first package includes a tray.

62. (Original) The package of claim 61, wherein the tray is comprised of polystyrene foam.

63. (Original) The package of claim 62, wherein the tray includes a bottom wall, a continuous side wall, and a continuous rim, the continuous side wall encompassing the bottom wall and extending upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall, the continuous rim encompassing an upper edge of the continuous side wall and projecting generally laterally outwardly therefrom.

64. (Original) The package of claim 57, wherein the non-barrier portion is a stretch film.

65. (Original) The package of claim 64, wherein the stretch film comprises a polyolefin or polyvinyl chloride.

66. (Original) The package of claim 57, wherein the first package is substantially free of oxygen therein in response to the first package being flushed with the one or more gases.

67. (Original) The package of claim 57, wherein the second package is a polymeric bag.

68. (Original) The package of claim 57, wherein the gas mixture comprises from about 0.3 to about 0.5 vol.% carbon monoxide.

69. (Original) The package of claim 57, wherein the gas mixture comprises from about 0.1 to about 0.5 vol.% carbon monoxide.

Claims 70-86 (canceled)

87. (New) A modified atmosphere package, comprising:

a first package comprising a non-barrier portion substantially permeable to oxygen, the first package being configured and sized to fully enclose a retail cut of raw meat; and

a second package being substantially impermeable to oxygen, the second package adapted to cover the first package so as to create a pocket between the first and second packages, the pocket having a mixture of gases comprising from about 0.1 to about 0.8 vol.% carbon monoxide and at least one other gas to form a low oxygen environment that substantially converts the oxymyoglobin directly to carboxymyoglobin on a surface of the raw meat.

88. (New) The package of claim 87 further including an oxygen scavenger.

89. (New) The package of claim 87 further including an activated oxygen scavenger.

90. (New) The package of claim 87, wherein the first package is shaped differently than the second package.

91. (New) The package of claim 87, wherein the first package includes a tray.
92. (New) The package of claim 91, wherein the tray is comprised of polystyrene foam.
93. (New) The package of claim 92, wherein the tray includes a bottom wall, a continuous side wall, and a continuous rim, the continuous side wall encompassing the bottom wall and extending upwardly and outwardly from the bottom wall, the continuous rim encompassing an upper edge of the continuous side wall and projecting generally laterally outwardly therefrom.
94. (New) The package of claim 87, wherein the non-barrier portion is a stretch film.
95. (New) The package of claim 94, wherein the stretch film comprises a polyolefin or polyvinyl chloride.
96. (New) The package of claim 87, wherein the first package is substantially free of oxygen therein in response to the first package being flushed with the one or more gases.
97. (New) The package of claim 87, wherein the second package is a polymeric bag.
98. (New) The package of claim 87, wherein the gas mixture comprises from about 0.3 to about 0.5 vol.% carbon monoxide.
99. (New) The package of claim 87, wherein the gas mixture comprises from about 0.1 to about 0.5 vol.% carbon monoxide.